

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
NATHANIEL COLE ZARRELLI

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Leslie and Mike Zarrelli of Silver Spring, Maryland, on the birth of their new baby son. Nathaniel Cole was born on February 9, 2006, at 10:46 a.m., weighing 7 pounds and 4 ounces. Nathaniel has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future. His birth is a blessing.

RECOGNIZING AN ARTICLE BY
RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN, SPIRITUAL
LEADER OF CONGREGATION BETH CHAVERIM IN VIRGINIA
BEACH, VA

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article written by Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The article by Rabbi Zoberman reads as follows:

I was in Israel on a mission of the ARZA (Association of the Reform Zionists of America) Rabbinical Council during the recent Palestinian elections to its legislative Council. The unexpected, stunning victory of Hamas winning 74 out of a total of 132 seats though only 44 percent of the cast votes, remains a source for analysis and a cause of concern.

The embarrassing defeat of ruling Fatah whose leader Mahmud Abbas continues to serve as a Palestinian Authority President, was primarily due to the long frustration and mounting anger caused by years of Fatah's inept management and outright corruption. Hamas cleverly ran on a Change and Reform list having already succeeded in establishing an infra-structure of supportive economic and social services to a deprived population. However, the victory took Hamas too by surprise saddling it with critical choices and decisions. Is it ready through to transform its very identity from a terrorist organization to one recognizing the State of Israel and negotiating peace with, is yet to be seen.

Essential financial support from Israel, the United States and the European Union depend on it. Hamas may likely choose a middle course of not repudiating its very nature while abstaining from military action to allow it to consolidate power, becoming in time even a greater threat to the Jewish state. A nightmarish scenario would be a hostile Hamas state bordering on Israel with an extreme Muslim agenda and heavily influenced by Iran who is also behind the Hizballah in Southern Lebanon. That would pose unacceptable risks to the entire Middle East and beyond.

Our group was most warmly greeted by the new American Ambassador to Israel, Dr. Richard Jones, who reiterated President Bush's policy of fighting terrorism and non-support for a Palestinian Authority deviating from the Road Map. We also had the opportunity to meet at the historic King David

Hotel with Laura King, Jerusalem Bureau Chief for the Los Angeles Times, who covered the Palestinian elections and conveyed her sense of not being surprised by the outcome.

Our memorable day visit to Jordan's fascinating Petra via the Yitzhak Rabin border crossing at Israel's most southern city of Eilat, was a reminder to appreciate anew the Israel-Jordan peace treaty of 1994. In addition to the natural wonders and rich history of the 1800 year old Nabatean city of Petra carved in Biblical red rock, the past interconnectedness of the entire region through fruitful commerce and cultural exchange should inspire once again its revitalization for benefit of all.

With hospitalized Ariel Sharon's unchanged medical condition, Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's resolve has weathered the evacuation of the illegal outpost of West Bank's Amona in spite of the accompanied violence. Surely it is the first of the post-Gaza disengagement challenges that will test the emerging new leadership and the vibrant Israeli democracy, even as was revealed for the first time by the Israeli Institute for Economic and Social Research the high financial cost of 14 billion dollars investment in the territories since 1967. The centrist Kadima ("Forward") party created by Sharon and now headed by Olmert continues with only a small drop in its strong showing in the polls toward the March 28 elections. However, the unpredictable nature of erupting Middle East events forestalls the assurity of the elections' outcome at this time. The elections will nonetheless reflect the Israeli voters verdict on Sharon's legacy of sacrificing the vision of a greater Israel for the more realistic one of a smaller Israel yet a Jewish and democratic one; an Israeli society in a far better position to tackle its demanding and urgent agenda of socio-economic dilemmas and gaps that will ultimately determine Israel's character and moral fiber so crucial for its survival.

HONORING AND PRAISING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED
PEOPLE ON THE OCCASION OF
ITS 97TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), as they celebrate the 97th anniversary of their inception. The Delaware chapter of the NAACP was founded in Wilmington, Delaware in 1909, only 1 year after the initiation of the national office. The Wilmington branch of the NAACP distinguished itself locally in the equal pay battle for teachers in Delaware. The positive impact that the Wilmington branch had on our community inspired the development of other branches around the state, including lower Sussex, Milford, Central Delaware, and Newark.

I would personally like to thank the past and present leaders of the NAACP in Delaware for their continued dedication to bring about peaceful movements for change. This illustrious organization's success can be attributed to leaders such as Reverend Maurice Moyer, Alice Dunbar Nelson, Louise L. Redding, Sam-

uel Dawson, Gary Hammond, Littleton Mitchell, and Charles Brittingham. They are each heroes both locally and nationally.

These remarkable trailblazers have led the battle for equality in the state of Delaware. They worked to pass the local elective "one-person, one vote," fought for suitable living quarters for migrant laborers, worked for fair public accommodations throughout the state, and made extensive advancements in educational equity.

The perseverance demonstrated by members of the NAACP reflects the strength of this exceptional organization. Over the past 97 years, the national organization has provided communities around the United States with strong and passionate leaders who have fought for social change. I congratulate them on the successes of the past 97 years, and I look forward to many more years of continued achievements in the future.

CONGRATULATING THE 2006 CENTRAL INDIANA BUSINESS HALL
OF FAME LAUREATES

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to personally congratulate Dick Johnson and Fred Klipsch, two individuals inducted into the Central Indiana Business Hall of Fame last week. These business and civic leaders are being recognized with this high honor for achieving success and contributing to the Indiana business community.

Dick Johnson exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit that has made Indiana great. He graduated from Indiana University and started a petroleum distribution company in 1957 with a \$10,000 loan co-signed by his father. In the beginning, wife Ruth and children Rick and Jenny helped out by preparing all invoices for mailing. Johnson Oil Company grew to be one of the largest independent gas distributors in the country with 200 Bigfoot stores employing 1,500 people.

Dick went on to build multiple companies from scratch, starting with very little capital to build a significant enterprise. A generous philanthropist, he and Ruth have given over \$1 million to his alma mater alone.

I am proud to say that Dick has roots in my own hometown of Columbus, where he has never stopped giving back to the community. He has received numerous awards, including Columbus Community Service Award, 1997; IU Annual Distinguished Entrepreneur Award, 1994; and Columbus Small Business Person of the Year, 1988.

Another hometown hero, Fred Klipsch is the model of the successful American businessman. From humble blue-collar beginnings to the blue suits of the boardroom, he made the transition without losing the ethics and values with which he was raised.

Along the way, Fred acquired and managed several companies. Perhaps the most well-known firm is the one that bears his name: loudspeaker manufacturer Klipsch and Associates.

Managing multi-million-dollar companies didn't keep Klipsch from volunteering his services. He has been very active at Purdue University and just retired from a term as president of the Educational Choice Charitable

Trust, an organization that gives scholarships to inner-city children to attend private schools.

Fred has also worked hard to reposition the state Republican Party and is still Republican National Committeeman for the State of Indiana.

Once again, my congratulations to 2006 Central Indiana Business Hall of Fame Laureates Dick Johnson and Fred Klipsch.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FOR H.R. 4843, VETERANS' COMPENSA- TION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUST- MENT ACT OF 2006

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am proud to introduce H.R. 4843, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006.

The Subcommittee's Ranking Member, SHELLEY BERKLEY, as well as full Committee Chairman STEVE BUYER and Ranking Member LANE EVANS, join me as original cosponsors of the bill.

H.R. 4843 would provide a cost-of-living adjustment to veterans' benefits effective December 1, 2006. This would affect more than 2.9 million service-connected veterans and survivors of service-connected veterans.

The VA Committee periodically reviews the service-connected disability and dependency and indemnity programs to ensure that the benefits provide reasonable and adequate compensation for disabled veterans and their families. Based on this review, Congress acts annually to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in veterans' compensation and survivor benefits.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has provided increases in these rates for every fiscal year since 1976. The Administration's fiscal year 2007 budget submission includes funding for a projected 2.6 percent increase.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

THANKING JUANITA CONKLING FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement in April 2006, I rise to thank Mrs. Juanita Conkling for over 40 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Juanita began her career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). After a year of service with the FBI, Juanita joined the U.S. House of Representatives on May 1, 1965, and has worked for the House Sergeant at Arms and the Chief Administrative Officer as the Payroll/Benefits Administrator in the Office of Members' Services. In this position, she has provided payroll and benefits guidance and counsel to countless Members of Congress and their families. Over the past 40 years,

Juanita has assured that the Members of Congress were paid accurately and on time each month. Additionally, she has provided current and former Members of Congress with advice and counsel about their ongoing options relative to their compensation and benefits.

Juanita has been instrumental in assisting both new and departing Members of Congress—orienting new Members about their pay and benefits issues as well as counseling departing Members about their options for continuation of benefit programs. During her 40 years working for the House, Juanita's career has given her the opportunity to have many long-lasting relationships with current and former Members of Congress, their families and congressional staffs.

On behalf of the former and current Members and the House community, I extend congratulations to Juanita for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the Members and the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Juanita many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

TRIBUTE TO RITA J. BOARD

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rita J. Board, Governmental Liaison for the Internal Revenue Service. Ms. Board's career extends over a 30 year period in Parkersburg, West Virginia, serving not only the taxpayers of the Second Congressional District of West Virginia but the entire State of West Virginia. The positions she held include Taxpayer Service Specialist, Taxpayer Education Coordinator, Management Analyst in the Taxpayer Advocate Service and most recently Governmental Liaison. Ms. Board has received numerous awards in recognition and appreciation of her superior effort, dedication, and personal contribution to accomplishing the goals of the Internal Revenue Service as Congress intended.

It is impossible to estimate the enormous number of lives positively impacted by Ms. Board—small business individuals, volunteers, low income families, educational institutions, and exempt organizations.

Ms. Board played a large part in establishing an extremely successful Taxpayer Advocate Office in West Virginia that aims to work cooperatively with Congressional Offices. Ms. Board also successfully led in the establishment of an excellent relationship between the State of West Virginia and the IRS. I commend her for these contributions to the West Virginia public.

Ms. Board's family is service-oriented. Her husband, Gerald, is a retired police officer. Her daughter, Leslie, and her son, Matthew, are currently serving the public as police officers. Ms. Board has been a role model to everyone she meets.

I urge my colleagues to join me, as Rita J. Board retires from the Internal Revenue Service, in celebrating her tremendous achievements during her career and in her personal life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on March 1, 2005, I missed roll call vote #17, honoring the contributions of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. I was unavoidably detained chairing a subcommittee hearing on the state of interoperable communications. If I had been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING AND PRAISING THE NA- TIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 97TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an organization that has been more than a guiding force but, in fact, a leader in advancing civil rights for nearly a century. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People continues its mission to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights for all people. As the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the nation, the men and women working for the NAACP have sought to remove all barriers of racial discrimination through their use of legal and moral persuasion.

The NAACP won one of the nation's greatest legal victories; that was the 1954 Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education*. The NAACP was also a prominent power that lobbied for the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, and 1964. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Fair Housing Act were also achievements of this longstanding organization. In 2005, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People launched the Disaster Relief Fund to help Hurricane Katrina survivors in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, and Alabama rebuild their lives.

The NAACP was built and grew from the collective courage of thousands of people and continues to inspire the high standard of full equality to ever younger generations. As grandfather of all civil rights organizations, it has been persistent in its commitment to non-violence, even in the face of overt and violent racial hostility. Today, on the 97th anniversary of the NAACP, it is important to celebrate how these men and women advanced their mission through reliance upon the press, the petition, the ballot, and the courts. Their premise has been that people of all races, nationalities and faiths, men and women, are created equal. All Americans must continue to uphold these standards of morality and justice.

I congratulate the NAACP and look forward to celebrating their centennial in 3 years.